

our troops home and begin to repair the image of the United States across a vast growing region of the world where we are losing friends every day from North Africa, from Egypt, all the way through to Pakistan and Afghanistan? What are we going to do to correct the damage that is producing more terrorists, more anti-Americanism and less resolution?

Don't just place this burden on the backs of our brilliant military. They have been asked to do everything this President has sent them to do. But as General Petraeus wisely told us a year ago, victory means one-third military and two-thirds good governance and diplomacy, and the two-thirds is missing and it has been missing and it is missing.

What can we do? Why didn't the President take two of our exemplary ambassadors, people like Zbigniew Brzezinski and James Baker, put them on the same airplane, send them over to Iraq, work with the neighboring countries of Iraq, give us a date certain in order to begin redeploying forces to an over-the-horizon position? Give us a time: 6 months, 1 year, 1 year and 3 months? Let's have a plan. There is no plan.

The only plan is to send more troops to keep extending deployments to put more burden on our military, to ask our Marines to become civilian officials within that country with the civilian workload when they're trying to be a strike force. What kind of solution is that? It's asking too much of our military. Let's give them the respect they're due but ask the person in charge as Commander in Chief to give America the plan for victory and ultimate redeployment from that region and building back the kind of friendships with adjoining nations that will not give our children and grandchildren the burden of fighting terrorism two decades or more down the road.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 3, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,855 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment encapsulates our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,855 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 3, 2008—12,855 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in

the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NEED FOR SAFE VACCINATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that's made the United States and the world healthier than at any period of the world has been vaccinations. Vaccinations have stopped so many dreaded diseases from killing hundreds of thousands, millions of people, it's not even funny.

But while vaccines have saved so many lives, there have also been some shortcomings in vaccines. When I was chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, I held hearings on autism; and we have gone from 1 in 10,000 children who are autistic to 1 in 150. We have an absolute epidemic of autism in this country, and hundreds of thousands of families have been affected and they have nowhere to turn.

Because of that, we passed in the 1980s what was called the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, and it was supposed to take care of families and people who were injured by vaccines and had nowhere to turn. Well, that was supposed to be a nonconfrontational system. But unfortunately, there has been nobody, up until recently, who has been paid out of the vaccine compensation fund. And one of the reasons is because Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration have said that the mercury in vaccines, 50 percent of it is a preservative called thimerosal. The mercury in vaccines did not cause autism, and there have been a lot of studies that have come out saying the mercury in the vaccines was not a root cause of the autism crisis that we have in this country.

In fact, in 2004, there was a report that said categorically that the thimerosal, the mercury in the vaccines, was not a cause of autism. And yet, just recently, in the *Journal of Child Neurology*, an article published by Drs. DeSoto and Hiltan, both doctors, reexamined that study and they said it was in error and that there was no doubt that the mercury in the vaccinations was a contributing factor to the epidemic of autism that we have in this country.

As a result of that and other information, some of the test cases that have been raised and are in progress right now have come before the special master. And just recently, a young

lady who was damaged by vaccinations, a young lady from Georgia, Hannah Poling, her case went before the special master, and the Justice Department had five attorneys who said that this young lady was not damaged in part by the mercury in the vaccinations. This young lady got five vaccinations in one day, most of which contained thimerosal, which is 50 percent ethyl-mercury. Shortly thereafter, she became autistic.

The same thing happened to my grandson. He got nine shots in one day, and within a short time, he became autistic. I won't go into all of the details of what happens when you become autistic, but it is certainly a tremendous change in the lives of not only the child but the entire family.

But anyhow, this case went before the special master along with two others. And just recently, a decision was made in that case by the special master; and in spite of the evidence that was presented by the Health and Human Services, the FDA, and the Justice Department, the special master awarded damages to this family and said that this girl was damaged by the vaccination. And the case was brought because this young lady took several shots, five in one day, that had mercury in them. So this is the first case that shows, in my opinion, that the mercury in vaccines is a contributing factor to the epidemic of autism that we have in this country.

The reason I come before the floor tonight to talk about this is it's time that we got mercury out of all vaccinations. We've been able to get it out of most of the children's vaccinations, but it's still in some. I think it is in three or four now. It needs to be out of all children's vaccinations.

We have had an increase in the cases of Alzheimer's in this country, and that's because in part, in my opinion, because mercury is in almost all of the adult vaccinations. When you get a flu shot or almost any kind of a shot, you're getting ethyl-mercury injected into your body. Now if we eat fish, they tell us to be careful because there's mercury in the fish and it may cause neurological damage. Yet, we are injecting it into ourselves and into our children through vaccinations.

It's high time that the Food and Drug Administration, Health and Human Services, and the pharmaceutical industry decides we want vaccinations because they give us a better quality of life and makes us live longer and prevents us from getting diseases, but we have to get mercury out of all vaccinations out of anything that goes into the human body; and until we do that, the problems with autism and other neurological diseases will continue to rise.

So I would like to say to my colleagues, I hope you will pay attention to this special order tonight. We have to get mercury out of all vaccinations. We can do it with single-shot vials that will not require that preservative; and

once we do that, I think we will have a much better quality of life, and people will be able to get vaccinations without worrying about becoming autistic.

□ 1345

CONGRESSIONAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO THE FAMILY OF CHARLES COOPERI' THORNTONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, April 4, will mark the date that Martin Luther King departed and went for his just rewards. I have a theory that messengers are sent to Earth to make us better human beings. And if you go back in history, Jesus Christ left early in his thirties, the Kennedy brothers left early in their thirties, and Martin Luther King, after he had done his work, left us.

And so we are very fortunate to be able to participate in a service today honoring the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like to pay tribute to someone from the State of California who can be described as a "diamond in the sky."

Charles Thorntona left this Earth about 2 weeks ago, and I presented his family with a Congressional Memorial Certificate of Recognition:

"Whereas he was preceded in death by parents Polly and Jimmie Thorntona and godson Gary Parker.

"Whereas he leaves behind lifelong soul mate Christine; children Kishaun and Charles Thorntona, Victoria and Aurea Smith and Chris Bale; grandsons DeAndre and Jaydn; and siblings Jim, Sandra, Pamela, and Timothy Thorntona and also Debra.

"Whereas, as a musician, artist, and coach, Charles touched many lives. A big-hearted father figure who thrived on making others happy. A legend, never to be forgotten.

"Be it resolved that Charles Thorntona be immortalized as a humanitarian, who shared his life to make it better for his fellow man and left an outstanding lasting legacy for his family and friends. May he rest in peace."

And may I just share a poem that was written called "A Diamond in the Sky," and it's a tribute from his brothers Jim and Tim and also written by Alice Holmes McKoy:

Stand and take a bow;
As you leave us for the pureness of heaven,
You have left us in this mist of life;
What becomes a legend most . . . you, my brother;

The one who reached out to everyone.
You chose to engage to interact to love;
Sharing and caring, never too busy to do.
Why you? The original rock of our world has been called to your eternal rest with the Lord;

You were supposed to let me know these things in advance . . . after all,

I am your brother . . . but it's all right;
As you sit with Jesus, Mom, Dad, and young Gary,
Man, know that you will always be loved and appreciated; and as I look into the sky tonight . . .
I see you . . . a diamond in the sky.

THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's now 1:48 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. Throughout the Nation, folks are finishing the day shift, getting ready to finish the day shift. People who work the afternoon shift are getting ready for work. Those who work the night shift are probably snoozing a little bit so they can get up in a few moments and start it all over again this evening. And where's the House, Mr. Speaker? The House has gone home. The House has gone home.

Now, why is that important? Well, we have just finished 2 weeks at home talking to constituents about issues great and small. They're concerned about a lot of things, Mr. Speaker. They're concerned about gas prices. They're concerned about the housing situation. And in my district, the Sixth District of Georgia, I get constant questions about national security: What is Congress doing to make certain that our Nation is safe? And that's important because, Mr. Speaker, today is the 48th day, the 48th day, of a unilateral disarmament on behalf of the Democrat leadership of the House of Representatives.

Why do I say that? Well, Mr. Speaker, we are at the 48th day now where the Protect America Act has been allowed to expire. This isn't going to happen in the future. This has happened. This Speaker, this Democrat leadership, has allowed the Protect America Act to expire.

Now, what's the Protect America Act? Well, it's an act, a portion of amendments that were adopted to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act shortly after 9/11. And what this portion of it allows that was allowed to expire is for the United States, our intelligence community, to listen or intercept electronic communication or phone communication between a foreign individual in a foreign land talking to a foreign individual in a foreign land. Not an American citizen, not on American soil. That means, Mr. Speaker, what they would be allowed to do is to listen to a potential terrorist or a terrorist talking to another potential terrorist or a terrorist outside the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I asked every single group that I spoke with at home for 2 weeks, who believes that our intelligence community ought not have the authority to do that, to listen to a terrorist talking to another terrorist outside the United States, talking potentially about how to do you, me, and our